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Claims

1. A method of controlling the operation of a plurality of accessories mounted on the outside of an aircraft, said method including directing control elements for each of said accessories to a single visual display unit (VDU) and a single hand manipulation device.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 further including combining a selection facility with said VDU whereby one of said accessories may be selected to fall under the control of said manipulation device.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 further including mounting said VDU and said manipulation device on a control station, such that said control station may be positioned adjacent to an aircraft seat.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3 including mounting said VDU in an adjustable manner such that the position thereof may be varied between one in which said VDU is positioned in front of an operator seated in said seat, and a position in which said VDU is positioned to one side of said seat and does not inhibit entry into, or exit from, said seat.

5. A control station for use in conjunction with a plurality of accessories mounted on the exterior of an aircraft, said control station including means to support a single Visual Display Unit (VDU) and a manipulation device responsive to information displayed on said VDU, the invention being characterized in that:

functional elements of all of said accessories are lead to said VDU;

said control station is associated with, but not fixed to, an aircraft seat; and

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the position of said VDU may be varied between one in which said VDU is directly in sight line of an operator positioned in said seat, and one in which said VDU is positioned to one side of said seat.

- 5 6. A control station as claimed in claim 5 further including a selection facility whereby the accessory to be control may be selected.
7. A control station as claimed in claim 6 wherein said selection facility is included within said VDU.
- 10 8. A control station as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 7 wherein said manipulation device is hand operable.
9. A control station as claimed in claim 8 wherein said manipulation device comprises a joy stick.
- 15 10. A control station as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 9 wherein said control station includes a receptacle positioned to one side of said aircraft seat, said VDU being locatable within said receptacle.

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